

Washington Post, 19 Jan 67.

Hanoi Bars Talks on Longer Tet Truce

SAIGON, Jan. 19 (Thursday) (AP) — Communist broadcasts said in effect today that North Vietnam will not accept South Vietnam's proposal for talks on extending the February Lunar New Year's truce.

[The U.S. had joined South Vietnam in inviting Hanoi to meet with South Vietnamese officials to discuss extending the truce for a week or even longer, Washington Post Staff Writer Murrey Marder reported yesterday. Washington officials doubted the North Vietnamese would accept the invitation, which bypassed the Vietcong's offer of a week-long truce and sought to deal directly with Hanoi.]

Hanoi Radio ignored the proposal, but sharply criticized the South Vietnamese government for holding to a four-day truce over the Lunar New Year, known as Tet, and not accepting the seven-day truce proposed by the Vietcong.

The Vietcong's Liberation Radio called South Vietnam's offer to meet with North Vietnam a "dishonest move" and said any such negotiations

should be held with the National Liberation Front, the political arm of the Vietcong. News agencies reported these developments elsewhere:

- British Foreign Secretary George Brown told the House of Commons last night his "purely personal impression" is that there is a possibility of a breakthrough in peace negotiations in Vietnam.

- Communist sources in London said Communist Chinese are seizing some of the new Soviet SAM-2 rockets being shipped to Hanoi for anti-aircraft defense and copying their components to bolster China's ballistics missile program.

- A North Vietnamese delegation led by Interior Minister Ung Van Khiem arrived in

Peking, according to a Peking Radio broadcast monitored in Tokyo. The broadcast did not say what the purpose of the mission was.

- New York Archbishop Francis Cardinal Spellman blasphemed in comparing the U.S. to the Good Samaritan, seven prominent Danish clergymen said in Copenhagen.